TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE LAST RONIN

IDW
ISSUE FOUR

EASTMAN | LAIRD | WALTZ | ESCORZA | BISHOP | DELGADO

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE LAST RONIN

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NOW.

APRIL, THIS IS MIKE-- ARE YOU IN *POSITION* YET?

MIKE--

BZZZTTT

APRIL? *COME IN!*

BZZZTTT

DAMMIT! I *TOLD* YOU GUYS THIS WAS A *BAD* IDEA!

SHE'LL *BE* HERE!

BUT WE CAN TAKE OUT THOSE TOWER GUNS *NOW* IF ME AND MY CREW CIRCLE RIGHT AND--

NO! I'M GONNA FIND *ANOTHER WAY* IN!

LAY DOWN SUPPRESSION FIRE AND *WAIT* FOR MY SIGNAL!

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AND DROP SMOKE!

LOTS OF SMOKE!

BUT... WE--

NOW, CASEY!

YES... SENSEI.

„BLOOD IN SNOW"

YOU *HEARD* 'IM! FOCUS YOUR FIRE ON THE TWO GUN TOWERS!

LET'S SEE IF WE CAN TAKE THOSE BASTARDS OUT FROM HERE!

WE'RE TOO PINNED DOWN.

FOOM

GOTTA FIND A WAY IN OR WE'RE ALL GONNA *DIE* ON THIS DAMN BEACH.

STUPID, *STUPID* PLAN.

AND HERE COMES THE SECURITY.

BLAM

BLAM

SHKK

EASY.

TOO EASY.

DON'T GET COCKY, MIKE.

INTRUDER ALERT

INTRUDERS?

LET ME GUESS--MORE *IMBECILIC THUGS* LOOKING FOR JUNK TO PAWN?

ELIMINATE THEM NOW!

HALT!

WHAT THE HOLY HELL...?

PREPARE TO BE ELIMINATED!

KZZAP

ALL RIGHT, YOU SOULLESS FREAK.

LET'S FIND OUT IF YOU'RE JUST AS NASTY...

SHK

...ON THE *INSIDE!*

WHOP

UFF!

SHK

DON'T GET COCKY, *HUH?*

KRAK

RIGHT.

ELIMINATE THE INTRUDER!

HNF... STUCK... GHH--

DON'T WORRY, BOSS...

...I *GOT* THESE TWO!

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO ***STAY PUT!***

YOU DID. I DIDN'T.

TERRIBLE DISCIPLINE, EXCELLENT INITIATIVE. ***DON'T*** DO IT AGAIN.

UNDER-STOOD?

YES, SENSEI...

"... I'M LEARNING."

THEN.

WAP

"HER TECHNIQUE'S DECENT.

FUMP

"BUT SHE'S DEVELOPED SOME BAD HABITS."

BAP

BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT SHE COULD DO WITH TEN YEARS OF **REAL** TRANING.

YEAH. 'CEPT WE DON'T **GOT** TEN YEARS.

I WONDER WHY SHE CUT HER HAIR?

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HER **HAIR**, DON, BUT IF SHE'S GONNA BE FIGHTING REGARDLESS, IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT **WHAT** SHE'S WILLING TO LEARN.

=HUFF= =HUFF= =HUFF=

WELL, BESIDES GETTING YOUR CARDIO IN, THAT WAS JUST ABOUT **USELESS.**

WHOA! DIDN'T **HEAR** YOU COME IN.

SNEAKY NINJA, REMEMBER?

YOU EVER FIGHT ANYONE **SKILLED** WITH THAT GARBAGE?

HEY, I GOT SKILLS!

NEVER HAD SOME NINJA MASTER TO SHOW ME NOTHIN' AND I **STILL** KICK ASS ALL OVER THIS CITY!

OKAY... **SHOW** ME. HIT ME AS **HARD** AS YOU CAN.

NOW!

WAIT...

... WHAT?

FIGURES.

NOTHING BUT A CHILD *PRETENDING* TO BE A WARRIOR.

CHILD?!

GRRRR...

HAI!

GOOD THING YOU *YELLED* FIRST OR YOU MIGHT'VE COMPLETELY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD.

FUMP

DODGE *THIS!*

YAWN.

YOUR *LEGS* ARE WEAK... SLOW.

WHAP

BUT NOT AS SLOW AS YOUR *FISTS.*

WHA-?!

THOK

ERF!

WHICH ALLOWED ME *ALL* THE TIME IN THE WORLD...

...TO DO *THAT.*

I WOULDN'T GET UP IF I WERE YOU.

=HUFF= =HUFF=

YEAH, RIGHT...

CRACK

RAH!

YOU WERE WARNED.

AH, LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A *PLAN* THIS TIME.

WAP

GUH!

SWAP

OKAY...

WHITE BELT QUALITY KICK.

FUMP

HAI!

KAFOOM

HM, OKAY... MAYBE *YELLOW* BELT.

NICE PUSH.

GOT ANYTHING TO **BACK IT UP?**

I'LL **SHOW** YOU...

SHOW ME WHAT...

...HOW TO **MISS** YOUR OPPONENT AGAIN?

BACK TO **SQUARE ONE.**

BOO!

THAT MOVE ONLY WORKS IN THE MOVIES... OR ON PEOPLE **WITHOUT** TRAINING.

THIS IS NEITHER.

WHAP

YOU'RE **WASTING** ENERGY... RUNNING ON FUMES.

WUP

VERY TIRED.

SHP

AND YOU'RE **DONE.**

NNG... **NEVER!**

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THINK ABOUT HOW YOU COULD'VE DONE **ALL** THAT DIFFERENTLY.

GAHH!

FWAM

TAKE IT EASY ON THE BRICKS. THEY'RE PRETTY *OLD*.
YOU WOULD KNOW.
WHAT WAS THAT?
OKAY-- *OW--OKAY!*
I GIVE!
THAT'S NOT THE *POINT*... TO GIVE UP. EVEN THE GREATEST OF WARRIORS CAN'T PUNCH THEIR WAY OUT OF *EVERY* CONFRONTATION.
SOMETIMES IT PAYS TO BE SUBTLE, FLUID, ELUSIVE... ...*AVOIDING* STRIKES RATHER THAN *DELIVERING* THEM.
LET YOUR ENEMY WEAR THEMSELVES OUT. THAT WAY *YOU* REMAIN IN CONTROL.
GOT IT. YOU MADE YOUR POINT. ARE WE *DONE* HERE?
YEAH, I GUESS.
WAIT... NO. THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I'M SAYING... OR *TRYING* TO SAY.
LOOK... THE POINT IS, I DON'T KNOW YOU AND YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT YOU'RE PRACTICALLY FAMILY AND... AND YOU NEED A *TEACHER*.
YOU HAVE SKILLS, BUT A LOT TO LEARN. TOO *MUCH* TO LEARN, AND I MIGHT BE WILLING TO TEACH YOU, BUT IT'S *MY WAY* OR THE *HIGHWAY*.
NO BACK TALK, NO ATTITUDE--
--I TELL YOU *WHAT* TO DO AND YOU *DO* IT.
GOT IT?
LIKE, SERIOUSLY... NO BULL? YOU'LL TEACH ME LIKE...
...LIKE A *REAL* TEACHER?
IT'S *SENSEI*.
RIGHT. *A SENSEI!*
OKAY... RIGHT... GOOD. WE'LL, UH...
...WE'LL START *FIRST THING* TOMORROW.

THANK YOU, MICHEL... UM... SENSEI.

YEAH... NO PROBLEM. NOW, UM... GET A HAIRCUT.

HA! HAIRCUT.

GOOD ONE.

GET A HAIRCUT? SERIOUSLY?

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

WELL, I THINK SPLINTER WOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOU...

...SENSEI.

APRIL?!

I WAS JUST... I... HOW LONG WERE YOU WATCHING?

LONG ENOUGH.

I'M SORRY--I HOPE I DIDN'T OVERSTEP MY BOUNDS. SHE'S A GOOD KID AND I DON'T WANT HER TO GET... I MEAN, I WANT TO HELP SOMEHOW. IT'S JUST THAT--

TIME IS ALWAYS SHORT. LIFE IS SHORT. WHAT YOU JUST DID--IT'S MORE THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR.

SPLINTER WAS THERE FOR ALL HIS SONS--ALL OF US... EVERYONE HE THOUGHT OF AS FAMILY. UNTIL THE VERY END.

CASEY MARIE'S ONLY HAD ME, AND I CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH. SHE'S TOUGH, HAS HER DAD'S COURAGE, MY BRAINS... BUT SHE NEEDS SOMETHING MORE, A PLACE TO DIRECT HER SKILLS, SOOTHE HER ANGER... THANK YOU.

AND SPEAKING OF SPLINTER, YOU NEVER FINISHED TELLING ME WHAT HAPPENED IN JAPAN, MIKEY. I...

...I NEED TO KNOW.

I KNOW... I'M SORRY. IT... IT STILL HURTS SO MUCH. EVERYTHING DOES.

BUT YOU'RE FAMILY. YOU SHOULD KNOW.

ONCE THE PLANE LANDED IN JAPAN...

"...I DITCHED THE CARGO HOLD AND MADE MY WAY OUT OF THE AIRPORT WITHOUT BEING SEEN AND HEADED FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE AND TO ***CLAN HAMATO.***

NARITA

"I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO GO ON--A CRAPPY MAP AND SOME STORIES MASTER SPLINTER TOLD US ABOUT THE CLAN'S VILLAGE OVER THE YEARS.

"ALL I KNEW FOR SURE WAS THAT'S WHERE I'D FIND FATHER AND DONNIE... AND THAT I NEEDED TO MOVE ***FAST.***

"BUT THE SNOW WAS BLINDING, AND AFTER AWHILE I WAS PRETTY SURE I WAS COMPLETELY LOST AND READY TO GIVE UP...

"...WHEN I SAW ***LIGHTS*** IN THE DISTANCE.

"IT WAS THE FIRST SIGN OF LIFE FOR MILES, AND I WAS PRAYING THEY COULD HELP.

"SUDDENLY, I WAS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY WARRIORS. SAMURAI FROM THEIR WEAPONS AND THEIR DRESS. THE ***REAL*** DEAL.

"I TOLD THEM WHO I WAS... ***MICHELANGELO***, SON OF ***MASTER SPLINTER*** OF CLAN HAMATO.

"THEY JUST GRUNTED AND POINTED TOWARDS THE VILLAGE."

"THE VILLAGE TURNED OUT TO REALLY BE A MASSIVE COMPOUND. ONE OF THE ELDERS WAS THERE, WAITING FOR ME. I QUICKLY TOLD HIM ***WHO*** I WAS, ***WHY*** I WAS THERE.

"HE JUST STARED AT ME WITH SAD EYES FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER BEFORE HE FINALLY SPOKE."

I AM ***MASTER SHINICHIRO*** OF CLAN HAMATO.

PLEASE, FOLLOW ME. WE WILL SPEAK FURTHER INSIDE.

"INSIDE, I ASKED AGAIN... PRACTICALLY BEGGED."

PLEASE... ***WHERE*** ARE MY FATHER AND MY BROTHER?

"I KNEW MY OUTBURST WENT AGAINST ALL THE PROPER DECORUM MASTER SPLINTER HAD TAUGHT US OVER THE YEARS, BUT LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

"... I WAS ***DESPERATE.***

"MASTER SINICHIRO JUST REMAINED SILENT, AVOIDING MY EYES.

"THEN..."

THERE ARE PEOPLE, CREATURES, TEACHERS, WARRIORS, HEROES, AND LEGENDS...

"...YOUR FATHER, MASTER SPLINTER, WAS **ALL** OF THESE."

WOOMMM

MASTER SHINICHIRO--IT IS **GOOD** TO SEE YOU, MY OLD FRIEND. IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG!

YOU REMEMBER MY SON, DONATELLO?

OF COURSE. GREETINGS TO YOU BOTH!

I LOOK FORWARD TO A LONG AND DETAILED CHAT ONCE WE HAVE CONCLUDED THE **BUSINESS** AT HAND.

AH, YES. THE BUSINESS OF **PEACE.**

I REMAIN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING YOUNG MASTER HIROTO'S SINCERITY IN THIS **LONG OVERDUE** ENDEAVOR.

AS DO I. HOPEFUL YET VIGILANT.

THANKFULLY OUR SCOUTS HAVE FOUND NO SIGNS OF **DECEIT** BY THE FOOT CLAN.

FATHER, I'D LIKE TO RADIO LEO AND THE OTHERS, LET THEM KNOW WE GOT HERE OKAY.

INDEED, MY SON. PERHAPS MASTER SINICHIRO CAN **HELP** WITH THAT?

CERTAINLY. WE HAVE SHORTWAVE RADIOS YOU CAN USE FOR THAT PURPOSE, DONATELLO.

I WILL MAKE IT SO.

=SIGH=

THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH WITH AIR AS **SWEET** AS THIS.

I MISS IT VERY MUCH.

AS WE MISS HAVING YOU **HERE,** SPLINTER-SAN.

AND WE WILL **PROPERLY** CELEBRATE YOUR RETURN HOME SOON, OLD FRIEND. BUT FIRST...

"...WE HAVE ***PEACE TALKS*** TO ATTEND."

I HOPE OROKU HIROTO CHOSE THIS LOCATION OUT OF IGNORANCE AND NOT MALICE.

A RESTING PLACE FOR THE DEAD DEFINITELY WOULDN'T BE ***MY*** FIRST CHOICE.

AGREED. BUT AS STATED, OUR RECONNAISSANCE REVEALED NO FOOT CLAN DECEPTION.

GREETINGS AND WELCOME! I AM ***AMBASSADOR HARA*** OF THE FOOT CLAN, AT YOUR SERVICE.

MASTER HIROTO SENDS HIS ***WARMEST*** WISHES AND ***KINDEST*** REGARDS!

WE ASSUMED THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD BE ***LEADING*** THE DELEGATION.

YES. AN INCREDIBLE DISPLAY OF BAD FAITH.

OH, NO, ***NOT*** AT ALL! MASTER HIROTO... HE'S OVERSEEING THE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE GRAND FEAST WE WILL ENJOY ONCE THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONFIRMED.

I'M SURE HE'S ON HIS WAY HERE ***NOW*** FOR A PROPER GREETING AND COMPLETION OF THE CEREMONY.

BUT I... I NOTICED YOU ARE ALL ARMED.

THAT WAS ONE OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE GATHERING--TO CELEBRATE PEACE WITH ***NO*** WEAPONS.

I DO NOT RECALL AGREEING TO THAT. BUT THESE ARE MERELY CEREMONIAL--***DECORATIONS***, IF YOU WILL.

REGARDLESS, WE SHALL STAND OVER HERE UNTIL YOUR MASTER ARRIVES. THEN WE WILL ***CONCLUDE*** OUR BUSINESS.

NO, WAIT, PLEASE... LET US FINALIZE THE TERMS NOW BEFORE MASTER HIROTO ARRIVES.

AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALL HERE FOR THE ***SAME*** REASON... YES?

WE SHALL WAIT.

CHK

PLEASE, BE REASONABLE. WE... WE'RE ***HUMBLE*** SERVANTS OF OUR MASTER.

WE ONLY SEEK P-PEACE.

AS DO ***WE***. THIS WAR HAS LASTED GENERATIONS.

A FEW MORE MINUTES WILL NOT MATTER.

HA!

SO... THE PRODIGAL MUTANT ***RETURNS!***

WELCOME ***HOME***, RAT!

OR SHOULD I SAY, PITIFUL, DELUDED ***FOOL?***

HOW EASY IT WAS TO GET YOU HERE, ONLY FOR YOU TO LEARN YOU'VE WASTED YOUR LIFE AND THAT OF YOUR DISGUSTING MUTANT SPAWN ON A THREAD OF ***FALSE*** HOPE!

TELL ME, RODENT--HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM YOUR FAMILY IN NEW YORK?

HAHA HA!

HAI!

SCHWHIP

OROKU HIROTO, WHILE YOU STILL BREATHE...

...YOU WILL CALL ME **MASTER** SPLINTER.

I CALL YOU **HELL-BOUND**... WHERE THE **REST** OF YOUR REVOLTING FAMILY AWAITS.

GRAND WARRIORS OF THE FOOT CLAN...

ATTACK!

NO **MERCY**, MY SON!

MAKE THEM **PAY** FOR THIS TREACHERY WITH THEIR BLOOD!

WE SHOULD'VE **NEVER** TRUSTED HIM! ANOTHER OROKU LIAR!

I WOULD NOT HAVE BROUGHT A **WEAPON** IF I TRUSTED HIM.

AND EVEN AT THEIR WORST, HIROTO'S PREDECESSORS **ALWAYS** ACTED WITH HONOR.

"LET US TEACH THIS YOUNG UPSTART WHAT THAT **MEANS!**"

KILL THEM!

GRAHH!

IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO STAND ASIDE AND ALLOW ME ACCESS TO YOUR MASTER...

...I WILL CUT MY *OWN* PATH.

SHLIP

THESE GUYS ARE *SERIOUSLY* LACKING DISCIPLINE.

BUT NOT *NUMBERS.*

SPLINTER-SAN IS RIGHT.

DO *NOT* LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!

FINE. ADDITION BY *SUBTRACTION*, THEN!

WHOMP

INDEED.

SCHLAK

GAH!

BASTARDS!

KEEP PRESSING *FORWARD*, MY SON!

SKILL WILL DECIDE THE OUTCOME TODAY!

WHY IS THIS TAKING SO *LONG*, GENERAL OYAMA? THESE ARE OUR BEST WARRIORS?

MY LORD, PLEASE BE PATIENT. WE HAVE FAR SUPERIOR NUMBERS.

THIS BATTLE *WILL* BE OURS.

BAH! SHUT UP, YOU OLD FOOL!

TO *HELL* WITH YOUR PATIENCE...

"BRING UP THE *ARCHERS!*"

MASTER SINICHIRO! SENJI IS *DOWN!*

LEAVE HIM! *GO!*

GET THE *OTHERS!*

HEAR ME, RAT! HEED THE LAST WORDS YOU WILL **EVER** HEAR!

YOUR TIME IS **THROUGH**... AS IS YOUR FAMILY'S... IN NEW YORK CITY AND HERE, ON THIS BATTLEFIELD!

EVERYONE YOU HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED IS GONE... **ALL DEAD!**

THEN I HAVE **NOTHING** LEFT TO LOSE!

COME, BOY--FACE ME LIKE A **TRUE** WARRIOR!

COME MEET YOUR ULTIMATE FATE AT MY BLADE LIKE YOUR **GRANDFATHER** BEFORE YOU!

FATHER... THE ARCHERS...

MAYBE WE SHOULD PULL **BACK**... REGROUP.

MASTER HIROTO, NO! **WAIT!**

YOU WAIT, GENERAL--FOR MY COMMAND TO **UNLEASH** MY ARCHERS!

I WOULD SEE THIS FILTHY RODENT **EXTERMINATED**...

...UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

DISMOUNT, MAN-CHILD!

I WILL HAVE YOUR **HEAD!**

NO, SPLINTER-SAN! THIS BATTLE IS NO LONGER **OURS** TO WIN!

WE MUST RETREAT AND LIVE TO FIGHT **ANOTHER** DAY!

PREPARE TO **DIE**, MONSTERS.

NO!

YOU WILL **NOT ESCAPE** MY SWORD, TREACHEROUS COWARD!

FATHER... NO...

RAHH!

ARCHERS...

"...FIRE!"

SWP

SWP

SWP

FOR MY FAMILY!

FATHER! BEHIND ME!

AAGH!

MY SON!

HNG!

SHNK

NO...

SPLINTER!

"...REINFORCEMENTS!"

CLAN HAMATO...

RAIN HELL!

MASTER HIROTO! WITH ME--QUICKLY!

UNHAND ME, OYAMA! THE... GNF... ARMOR TOOK THE BRUNT OF THE STRIKE.

I WILL GUT THE RODENT WITH HIS OWN... ERF... SWORD.

THE RAT IS FINISHED, MASTER, AND SO IS THIS BATTLE...

"WE HAVE LOST OUR ADVANTAGE!"

YAGH!

FOOT! RETREAT!

"THERE ARE PEOPLE, CREATURES, TEACHERS, WARRIORS, HEROES, AND LEGENDS.

"YOUR FATHER, MASTER SPLINTER, WAS ALL OF THESE..."

...AS WAS YOUR BROTHER, DONATELLO.

WE COULD NOT SAVE THEM, MICHELANGELO. I AM *TRULY* SORRY.

"AND SO, I HAD MY ANSWERS. I CAME SEEKING THE LAST OF MY FAMILY...

"... ONLY TO FIND ALL THAT WAS LEFT TO ME WERE ASHES, MY BROTHER'S BLOOD-STAINED BO-STAFF, AND MY FATHER'S JOURNAL.

"I WAS TOO LATE.

"AND NOW I WAS *ALONE.*

"MASTER SINICHIRO OFFERED TO LET ME STAY THERE, WITH THE CLAN.

"BUT SEEING ALL THE BRAVE WARRIORS SURROUNDING ME ONLY REMINDED ME OF EVERYTHING I'D LOST.

"IT WAS *TOO MUCH* TO HANDLE.

"SO I RESPECTFULLY DECLINED THE KIND INVITATION, TURNED TOWARDS THE MOUNTAINS..."

"...AND I JUST STARTED WALKING."

AS THE LAST OF MY KIND, A ***RONIN***. THAT IS WHEN I DECIDED THE FEUD MUST END--I WOULD FOLLOW FATHER'S JOURNAL--TRAIN, AND ***COMPLETE*** THE MISSION WE WERE INTENDED TO FROM BIRTH. ALL OROKU MUST PERISH.

IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE ALIVE, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT--BUT, THE MISSION WOULD ***STILL*** BE THE SAME.

I'M SORRY.

DON'T, MIKEY... PLEASE.

THERE'S ***NO WAY*** YOU COULD'VE KNOWN.

AND THE REST? I UNDERSTAND WHAT ***NEEDS*** TO BE DONE.

YOU'RE ***HERE*** NOW, THAT'S WHAT COUNTS.

AND THE WAY CASEY MARIE HAS ***TAKEN*** TO YOU... IT'S SO AMAZING TO WATCH.

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D BE ABLE TO ***CONNECT*** WITH SOMEONE THE WAY SHE HAS WITH YOU.

YOU ***SURE*** ABOUT THAT?

SEEMS LIKE OUR "CONNECTION" IS BY DESIGN.

YOUR DESIGN.

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHEN WERE YOU GONNA TELL ME ABOUT CASEY'S ***EXTRA*** ABILITIES, APRIL?

WHY WOULD YOU KEEP THAT *AWAY* FROM ME?

I WASN'T KEEPING IT AWAY... NOT EXACTLY.

YOU DIDN'T *INJECT* HER, DID YOU?!

HELL NO! YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN THAT!

I WOULD *NEVER* DO THAT TO MY CHILD!

I'VE RUN *THOUSANDS* OF TESTS SINCE SHE WAS BORN, LOOKING FOR THE ORIGIN!

AS... AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, TRACE AMOUNTS OF THE MUTAGEN DNA WERE *PASSED ON* FROM HER BIRTH PARENTS--

--WHO HAPPENED TO HAVE NEARLY *LIFELONG EXPOSURE* TO IT FROM THE COMPANY THEY KEPT.

WAIT... SERIOUSLY? *US?*

WE CONTAMINATED ALL OF YOU?!

YOU DIDN'T KNOW. WE *ALL* DIDN'T KNOW!

LOOK, SHE'S BASICALLY NORMAL IN *ALL* ASPECTS OTHER THAN STRENGTH AND SPEED... AND HER HEALING ABILITY.

ALL OF WHICH HAVE *INCREASED* WITH AGE, WHICH IS WHY I WANTED SAMPLES OF YOUR BLOOD.

DOES *SHE* KNOW?

SHE'S *AWARE* SHE'S DIFFERENT, BUT I HAVEN'T TOLD HER EVERYTHING.

NOT *YET*, AT LEAST. BUT SOON.

UNTIL THEN, I NEED YOU TO KEEP THIS BETWEEN *US*, OKAY?

YEAH. SURE.

OUR SECRET.

THANK YOU.

NOW, I NEED TO GET SOME FOOD IN ME. AND GALLONS OF CAFFEINE.

COME ON, WE'LL TALK MORE IN THE KITCHEN. I HAVE SOME *FRIENDS* COMING OVER I WANT YOU TO MEET.

FRIENDS?

"WHAT FRIENDS?"

YOU'RE SERIOUS...

...NOT ONLY DOES STOCKMAN HAVE HIS OWN FORTRESS, IT'S ON HIS OWN ***ISLAND?***

YEAH. ROOSEVELT ISLAND.

IN THE EAST RIVER. I'M SURE I ***MENTIONED*** THAT.

NO, YOU DIDN'T. I WOULD HAVE ***REMEMBERED*** THAT!

OKAY. WE HAVE RAFTS WITH CLOAKING DEVICES TO GET THE SQUADS IN POSITION ON THE ISLAND'S SHORELINE ***COMPLETELY*** UNSEEN.

=SIGH= WHATEVER.

GO ON, COMMANDER AVALLONE.

AND WE HAVE YEARS OF SURVEILLANCE. HE HAS SECURITY, BUT IT'S FAIRLY ***LIMITED***--

"--I HONESTLY BELIEVE HE THINKS NO ONE WOULD BE ***CRAZY*** ENOUGH TO MOUNT A SERIOUS ATTACK."

EVERYONE, STAY DOWN!

KEEP FIRING ON THOSE GUN TOWERS! STOCKMAN'S GOT EVERY DAMN SQUARE INCH OF THIS BEACH ***ZEROED*** IN!

YEAH! BUT WE'RE ***SITTING DUCKS*** IF WE DON'T GET MOVING!

WHAT'S THE PLAN ***NOW***, SENSEI?!

ALERT! YOUR HIGHNESS, THERE ARE DOZENS OF LIFE FORMS CONVERGING ON THE SECURITY WALL. I SUGGEST YOU--

BAH! ANNOYING FLIES, NOTHING MORE THAN USELESS THUGS.

MY GUARDIANS WILL DEAL WITH THEM!

DOESN'T MATTER IF STOCKMAN THINKS IT'S SERIOUS OR NOT--WE DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SOLDIERS OR WEAPONS HE HAS TO REPEL AN ATTACK.

AND WHAT IF HE CALLS IN HIROTO'S WHOLE ARMY OF IDIOTS?

TRUST ME--THERE'S NO LOVE LOST BETWEEN STOCKMAN AND HIROTO. THEY BOTH CONSIDER EACH OTHER ANNOYING NECESSITIES TO THEIR SICK SCHEMES.

STOCKMAN'S ONLY GONNA ASK THE FOOT FOR HELP AS A LAST RESORT... IF EVEN THEN.

WHICH SHOULD BUY US THE TIME WE NEED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION.

ONCE OUR TEAMS HIT THE BEACH, THEY'LL LAY DOWN SUPPRESSION FIRE FROM VARIOUS KEY POSITIONS SO STOCKMAN WON'T KNOW WHICH DIRECTION THE REAL THREAT'S COMING FROM.

WE HAVE OUR OWN DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM SET UP, SO WE'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP TIGHT WITH ALL OUR MOVEMENTS...

"...AS THE REST OF THE PLAN COMES TOGETHER."

WE GOT NOTHING BUT STATIC! WE'RE WORKING BLIND!

WE GOT THIS, SENSEI! EVERYONE KNOWS THEIR OBJECTIVES!

RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT!

LISTEN UP! THE MAIN DOORS ARE TOO HEAVILY ARMORED! OUR SECOND OBJECTIVE'S 100 YARDS THAT WAY!

FOLLOW CASEY AND THROW EVERYTHING YOU HAVE FOR COVERING FIRE!

LET'S ROLL!

AT THIS POINT, WE SHOULD BE CLEAR TO **BLOW** THE MAIN DOORS ON THE SOUTH SIDE, AND THE SMALLER ONES ON THE NORTH, EAST, AND WEST SIDES...

"...SINCE WE'LL HAVE COMPLETELY **OVERWHELMED** ANY EXTERIOR GUARDS OR REMAINING ROBOT DEFENSES."

THERE'S **TOO MANY** OF THEM!

PULL BACK FOR A CLEARER LINE OF FIRE WITH THE HEAVIER WEAPONS...

...THERE'S **NO WAY** WE CAN TAKE OUT THE DOORS NOW!

WITH THE GUN TOWERS KNOCKED OUT AND THE KEY DOORS BLOWN, HALF OF EACH SQUAD WILL BE READY TO GO THROUGH THE DOORS, WHILE THE REST HEAD OVER THE TOP.

IF THERE ARE ANY DIFFICULTIES WITH THE DOORS, WE HAVE **SECONDARY WALL-BREACH OPTIONS** HERE, HERE, AND HERE.

DAMMIT, WE'VE LOST TOO MANY TO THOSE TOWER GUNS. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

SPREAD OUT AND KEEP THE SUPPRESSION FIRE UP.

I'M GONNA GO DEAL WITH THOSE GUNS, AND THEN WE'LL FIGURE **ANOTHER** WAY IN.

LET ME **COME WITH** YOU.

NO!

YOU NEED TO PROTECT AND GUIDE YOUR CREW.

AND KEEP TRYING TO REACH YOUR **MOTHER!**

"WITH ALL TEAMS INSIDE THE COMPOUND AT THIS POINT, THE ***STRIKER AIRBORNE*** SQUAD WILL DROP IN AND SUPPORT ALL GROUND TEAMS, AS WELL AS MAKE SURE WE CUT ENOUGH OF THE POWER SYSTEMS..."

...IN ORDER TO ***REPEL*** A COUNTERATTACK WHILE WE COMPLETE PHASE-TWO.

MRS. JONES WILL PICK UP THE BRIEFING FROM HERE.

DAMMIT! AIRBORNE'S SITTING ***DUCKS*** FOR THE REMAINING GUN TOWERS!

STUPID ATTACK PLAN!

STUPID!

THIS SHOULD HELP THEM GET ON THE *GROUND*.

SHNKK

NOW TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP THIS FROM BECOMING A *COMPLETE* MASSACRE.

BOOOM

GET *DOWN* IN THE COURTYARD AND TAKE POSITIONS!

WITH EVERYTHING KNOCKED OUT AS COMMANDERS AVALLONE AND ZARAGOZA LAID OUT, I'LL BE ROLLING THROUGH THE MAIN GATES IN THE *AFV*--HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE LARGEST GENERATOR.

WE'RE GONNA NEED ALL AVAILABLE POWER TO REACTIVATE THE FUGITOID, WHICH SHOULD ENABLE US TO TALK *DIRECTLY* TO PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT, ACCESS STOCKMAN'S NETWORK...

"...AND TAKE *FULL* CONTROL FROM THERE."

YOUR MAJESTY, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOU *RECONSIDER* HEEDING THE SECURITY ALERT. IF YOU WOULD JUST LOOK AT THE MONITORS, YOU'D--

YES. YES, I SEE.

A BIT *MORE* GOING ON OUT THERE THAN I THOUGHT. DAMAGE TO SEVERAL SENTRIES AND GUN TOWERS... NOT A BUNCH OF THUGS LOOKING FOR SCRAPS TO SELL AS I SUSPECTED.

WONDER IF HIROTO PUT ON HIS "BIG-BOY PANTS" THIS MORNING AND IS TRYING A POWER PLAY?

BAH! FIRE UP AND SEND OUT THE MOUSERS--THAT WILL PUT AN END TO THIS FOOLISHNESS...

"...AND LET ME GET **BACK** TO MY WORK IN PEACE."

MASTER HIROTO...

...WE ARE RECEIVING MULTIPLE REPORTS OF **GUNFIRE** AND **EXPLOSIONS** ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND.

CRAZY OLD BAXTER. MAYBE HE'LL BLOW HIMSELF **UP** THIS TIME

LEAVE ME. I'M WORKING.

WAIT.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, SEND A SQUAD OVER TO MAKE SURE HE'S **NOT** BLOWING HIMSELF UP...

"...AT LEAST UNTIL I KNOW HIS **TECH** IS SECURED."

SINCE STOCKMAN'S DESIGNED AND BUILT **ALL** OF HIROTO'S SYSTEMS AND FOOT ARMY, I'M CONFIDENT WE CAN FIND A **BACKDOOR** TO EVERYTHING... AND FINALLY **TAKE BACK** THIS CITY.

AND IF WE **CAN'T** WAKE HONEYCUTT UP?

PLAN B. WE BLOW AS MUCH OF THE PLACE UP ON OUR WAY OUT AND START THE FIGHT **ALL OVER AGAIN** THE DAY AFTER.

I DON'T LIKE IT.

THIS IS SOOOO **NOT** GOOD, BRO.

HE'S RIGHT-- TOO MANY VARIABLES.

YEAH. IT STINKS.

BUT THEY'RE GONNA ATTACK **WITH** OR **WITHOUT** YOU...

...AND I CAN'T LET THEM **DIE.**

MOUSERS!

A LOT OF THEM.

BLAM

THIS IS **ALL** THE EXPLOSIVES THAT MADE IT... YOU READY?!

FIRE IN THE HOLE!

THERE'S TOO MANY. CAN'T EMP **ALL** OF THEM.

KZAK

IT'S DO-OR-DIE TIME, APRIL.

CRAP! NOT ENOUGH!

COME ON, MOM... WHERE THE HELL **ARE** YOU?!

WHAT THE--?!

KA-BLAM

LOOK WHO I FOUND!

SORRY! I GOT HUNG UP GETTING ACROSS THE RIVER... GOT STUCK ON THE BOTTOM!

BY THE WAY, DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW MUCH...

"...I FREAKING HATE MOUSERS?!"

KA-ZAT

GET IN--WE'RE GOING INSIDE.

I HACKED IN LONG ENOUGH TO LOCATE THE MAINFRAME. WE NEED TO GET HONEYCUTT THERE.

NO... YOU OPEN THE DOOR--WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

CASEY, FOLLOW YOUR MOM TIGHT WITH THE TEAM AND I'LL TAKE THE REAR.

I WANNA MAKE SURE THERE'S NO OTHER SURPRISES OUT HERE.

ALL RIGHT... BUT HURRY. HIROTO'S GOTTA BE HIP TO US NOW.

CLOCK'S TICKING!

BLAM

MY READINGS ARE *OFF* THE CHARTS! THE MAIN POWER SOURCE AND MAINFRAME ARE RIGHT THROUGH *HERE*.

WHO THE HELL?!

STOP THEM!

KERASH

"LET'S GO, PROFESSOR HONEYCUTT--"

--WE HAVE A *WORLD* TO CHANGE.

AND WE'VE ONLY GOT *ONE SHOT* TO DO IT.

JUST A NEED TO MAKE SPACE AND...

RIIIP

...IN YOU *GO!*

SHUNK

BUZZZT

NOW, *LOTS* OF POWER!

HONEYCUTT... *HERE?!*

"BUT BRING ME THAT *ROBOT HEAD!*"

COME ON, PROFESSOR, YOU'VE BEEN IN THE *DARK* TOO LONG. THEY'RE GONNA KILL US IF YOU DON'T--*UNFF!*

SHZAK

FIRE *EVERYTHING!* KILL THEM ALL!

STOCKMAN'S THROWING *EVERYTHING* HE HAS AT US! WATCH YOUR BACKS!

COME ON, HONEYCUTT...

...IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

SAVING THE WORLD.

BUT FIRST...

KRAK

THIS IS FOR MY *HUSBAND!*

DAMNED WOMAN! I NEARLY *FELT* THAT!

WHAP

NNG!

I'LL FINISH YOU *ALL* MOMENTARILY.

BUT NOT UNTIL I SECURE...

...MY *PRIZE!*

YOU... SHALL... NOT... PASS...

WHAT... DID YOU SAY?

FLT

YOU SHALL NOT...

...PASS!

NO! STOP!

EEEEYAHH!

YOU SHALL PAY!

"FOR MY FAMILY!

"FOR MY FRIENDS!

"FOR EVERYTHING!"

AAAGH!

HAAAAAAAAAAAAH

ZZAT

GOODBYE, ZAYTON HONEYCUTT.

THANK YOU.

BUZZZZZZZT

EVERYTHING'S POWERING DOWN.

BAXTER'S DEAD. THE NANOBYTE SWARM-- HONEYCUTT--IS IN *CONTROL* NOW.

I'M GETTING WORD IT'S HAPPENING *ALL OVER* THE COMPOUND...

"... AND STARTING TO AFFECT THE *CITY*, TOO."

H-H-HALT...

BRZZAT

BRZZAT

"YOU'RE NOT GONNA *BELIEVE* THIS, LINDA!"

EVERYTHING'S SHUTTING DOWN... EVEN THE *FOOT COPS*!

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! I HAVE CONTROL OF THE POWER GRID... AND STOP-GAPS *ALL OVER* THE SYSTEM!

GET STOCKMAN ON THE LINE *RIGHT NOW!*

WE NO LONGER HAVE A COMMUNICATION LINK TO THE ISLAND, MASTER HIROTO. WE'VE BEEN BLOCKED OUT OF ALL HIS SYSTEMS... A *VIRUS* OF SOME KIND.

EVERYTHING IS OFFLINE!

SOUND A *FULL* TACTICAL ALERT! I WANT EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING WITH A *WEAPON* IN THIS TOWER... *NOW!*

AND I WANT *STOCKMAN* STANDING IN FRONT OF ME WITHIN THE HOUR!

FOR ROCK BOTTOM!

HIROTO'S NEXT, THE BUM!

WHOA.

I THINK WE WON.

THE BATTLE. ***NOT*** THE WAR.

AND NOT AT A PRICE I'M WILLING TO ***PAY*** ANYMORE.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

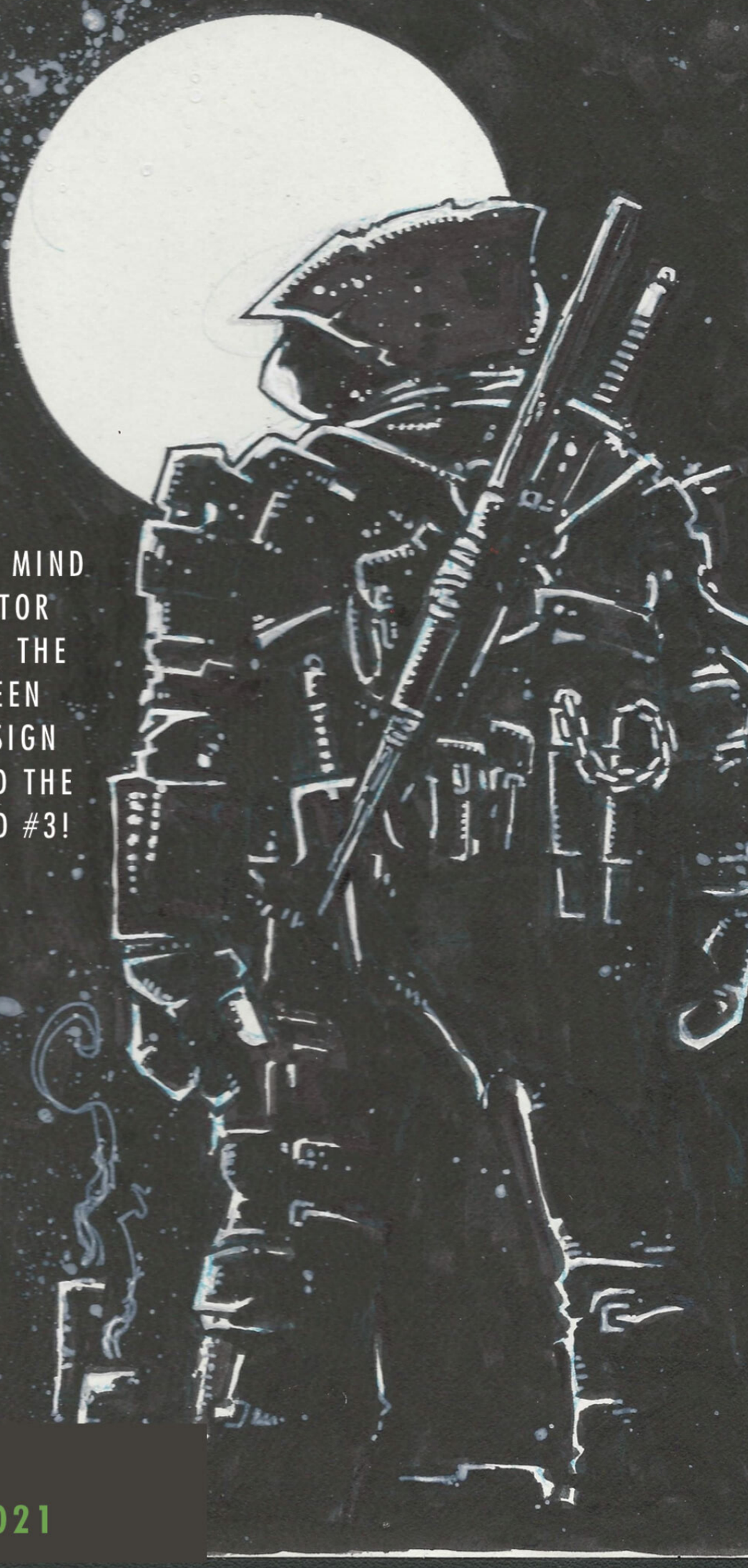
NEXT ISSUE

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

THE LAST RONIN

DESIGN ARCHIVE

DIVE DEEP INTO THE WORLD OF THE LAST RONIN!



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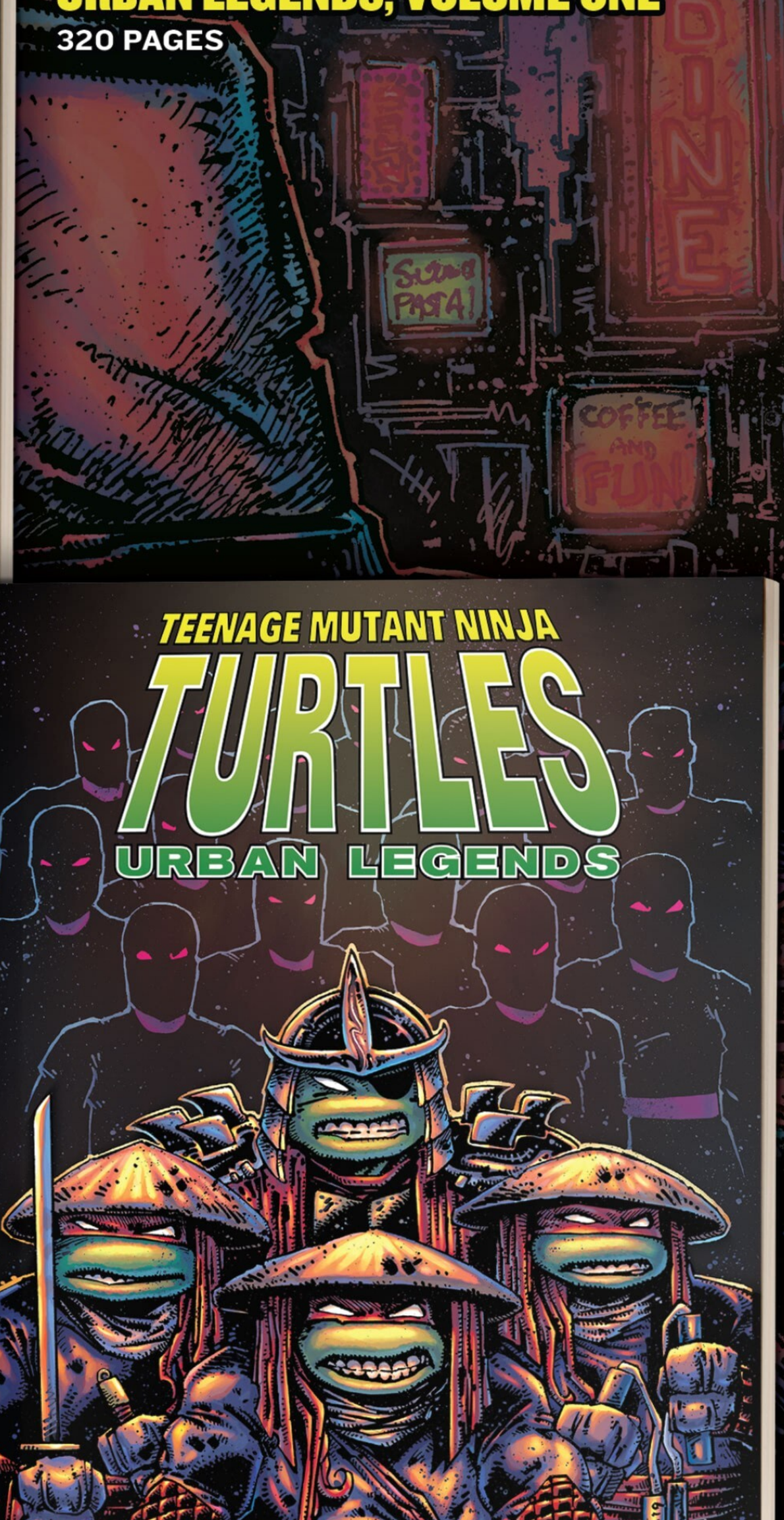

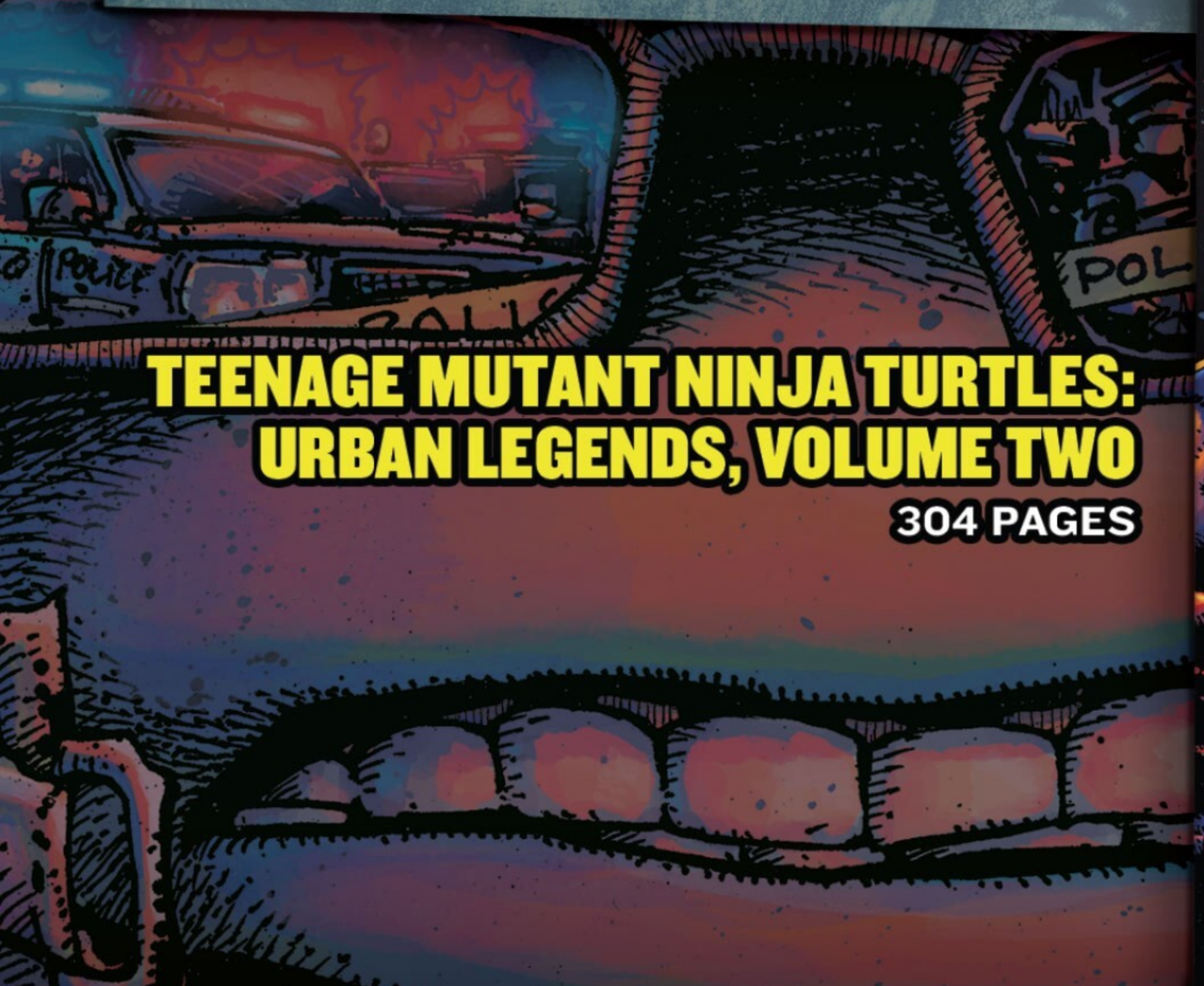

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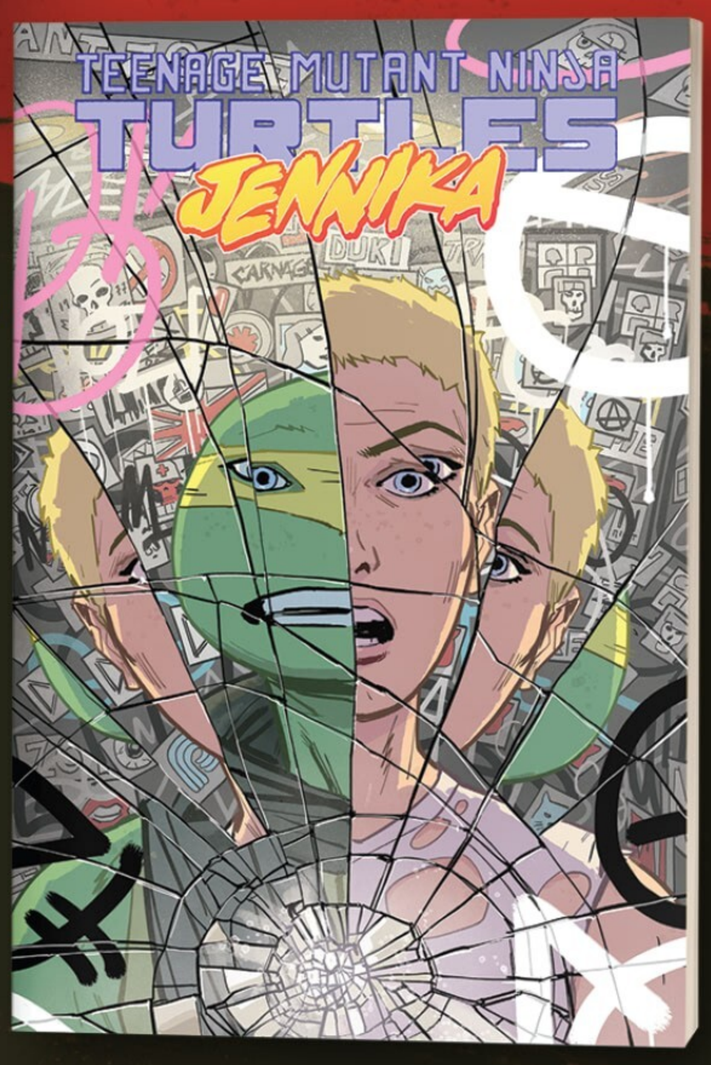

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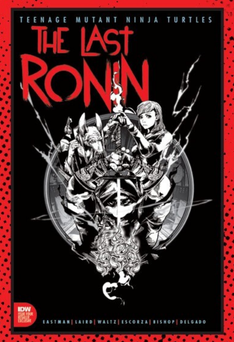

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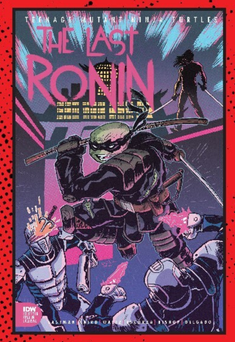

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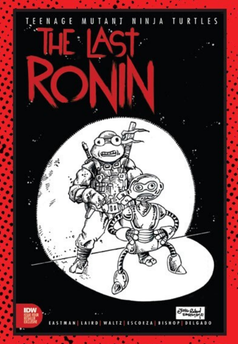

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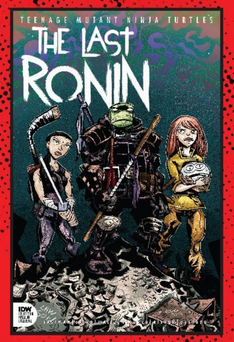

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